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Lenner Township, Somerset Co., Pa.,
Jan. 27. 1837.

My Dear Friend,

I have not forgotten my promise to write you, though I have not, until now, found a favorable opportunity to redeem my pledge. I am induced to write you at this time, on account of circumstances which I shall proceed, without further introduction, to communicate. If you will look at the map of the U. S. suspended in your north room, (if not lent in "a case of immersion"!) you will perceive that this county lies very near Maryland. I am now, perhaps, 30 miles from the line. There are in this region, ^{at all times,} no small number of runaway slaves, but they are generally caught unless they proceed farther north. I ~~have seen nothing for a day~~ ^{saw yesterday, in this} township a stout man who ran away from Maryland. He is 28 years old, and appeared to me to be an honest, like-ly man. He says he was sold with several others to a soul-driver for \$1,000; consequently he must have been considered very valuable. When he came here (some time in December I think it was) he was destitute of decent clothing, and unable to proceed, as he intended when he left Maryland, to Canada. A man in this place by the name of William C. Griffith, the son of a Friend, who has often rendered assistance to run-aways, kindly offered to keep him until spring. A reward of \$200.00 has been offered for his apprehension, and it is not considered safe for him to remain here after winter has gone by, as search will no doubt be made for him. I was so well pleased with his appearance, and with the account given of him by Griffith, that I could

not help thinking he would ~~be~~ a good man for
you to hire. Mr. Criffette says that he is very trust-
worthy, of a kind disposition, and knows how to do almost
all kinds of farm work. He is used to teaming,
and is very good to manage horses. He says that he
could beat any man in the neighborhood where he
lived, in Maryland, at mowing, cradling, or pitching.
He was intended going to Canada in the spring, but
says he would prefer to stay in the U. S., if he could
be safe. I have no doubt he would be perfectly safe
with you. Would you not like to have him ~~come~~ ^{go to}
you in the spring? I fear that, if he goes to Canada,
he may fall into bad company; but if he is under
your guardianship, I think he may become a useful
man. The project struck my own mind so plea-
santly that I resolved to write you on the subject.
It will be a great way for him to walk, but not worse
than going to Canada. He can be furnished with
the names of abolitionists on whom to call upon
the way, and I think may reach Vermont in
safety. I wish you would think of the case and
write me your conclusions. If you say, "let him
come," I will endeavor to make the best pos-
sible arrangements ~~&~~ in regard to the journey. Please
write me ^{immediately} to the care of Elizar Wright, Dr. New York, and
he will forward it to me, wherever I may be. It
is so uncertain where I shall go after the State Convention,
that I know not ~~how~~ you where a letter would
reach me.

You will observe, that this is not the field
originally assigned to me. The charge was made to
accommodate an agent who resided in the Southern
part of New York. You will see in the Emancipator,
I presume, every thing concerning my labors which
is worth knowing. The people here are generally very
ignorant, and nothing suits them but the "slam-bang
style" of lecturing. They have to be moved through
their sympathies, rather than their intellect or judg-
ment. It is not the ~~way~~ ^{manner} which suits me, and I
find it hard to adapt myself to the habits of the
people. However, I hope my labors have been
attended with a tolerable measure of success.

I am now waiting for the stage to take
me to Harrisburgh to Convention. I anticipate
an interesting meeting. How it would rejoice
my heart to be with you at your upcoming
anniversary! I hope to find time at Harrisburgh
to write a letter to friend Murray, to be com-
municated at your meeting.

There are a thousand things, dear friend,
which I should be glad to write but time and
room will not permit. I often think of you
and your dear family, and of the numerous acts
of kindness which I have received at your hands.
I feel anxious to hear from you, particularly concerning
your health. Excuse the haste of this letter, and present
my love to all your family.
I am yours affectionately,
H. J. Robinson. Oliver Johnson

ma

Rowland T. Robinson,
North Ferrisburgh,
Vermont.

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